
TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE....

A Column on Consumer Issues

by Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem's
Consumer Protection and Antitrust Division

July 23, 2003

"Do Not Call" Registry Scams

Have you received a call from a company inviting you to pre-register for the national "Do Not Call" list? Or have you received a call asking to confirm your registration on a "Do Not Call" registry? If so, you may be the target of a scam. Everyone – including scam artists, it seems – knows how annoying telemarketers can be! In fact, scammers have even come up with ploys to profit from our dislike for those dinnertime solicitors.

Here's where the scams come in. According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), con artists call consumers posing as workers for the Do Not Call registry and ask for personal information, including social security, bank account and credit card numbers. These calls imply that they are a representative of the "Do Not Call" list, and need your personal information to verify or confirm that you want to be on the list, or that signing up on the list requires payment of a fee.

The FTC does not allow private companies or other third parties to "pre-register" consumers for the registry. Web sites or telephone solicitors that claim they can or will register a consumer's name or telephone number on a national list – especially those who charge a fee – are a scam.

Before falling for this attempt at identity fraud, ask yourself why the Do Not Call registry would need to gather more personal information from you. It's easy to protect yourself from scams such as this: no matter who the caller claims to be, never give your personal information to someone you don't know, especially if you didn't initiate the call.

Here are some tips regarding registering on the "Do Not Call" list:

- Registering by telephone requires that you give only your telephone number.
- Registering on-line requires that you give your telephone number and your email address.
- Once you sign up for the "Do Not Call" list, you do not need to confirm any other personal information.
- You should never share any personal information with someone who calls you claiming to represent a "Do Not Call" list or registry or an organization to stop fraud.
- You will never receive an unsolicited call to be placed on the "Do Not Call" list. You must make the contact to be placed on the "Do Not Call" registry.
- Registration for the "Do Not Call" list is **FREE**. Telephone subscribers may register on the "Do Not Call" list on-line at www.ag.state.nd.us or by calling 1-888-382-1222.

Remember, con artists who seek your personal information to run up debts in your name or otherwise steal your identity operate these “Do Not Call” scams. You can enjoy the benefits of the “Do Not Call” service without becoming an identity fraud victim.

The Attorney General’s Consumer Protection Division investigates allegations of fraud in the marketplace. Investigators also mediate individual complaints against businesses. If you have a consumer problem or question, call the Consumer Protection Division at 328-3404, toll-free at 1-800-472-2600, or 1-800-366-6888 (w/TTY). This article and other consumer information is located on our website at www.ag.state.nd.us.

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